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**Abstract**

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A network-based controller for industrial installations is in particular useful to replace a memory-programmable controller with a connected data processing system. To reduce local hardware requirements, the network-based controller (NBC) is connected by field busses, communication busses, an internal modem and an internet-compatible network connection to the data processing and process-controlling equipment of industrial installations. The controller uses the possibilities of distributed systems, in particular the performance characteristics of internet or intranet. The field bus connection and communication busses ensure the same performance as conventional control technologies. The software management of the network-based controller is adapted for internet and the technical processes are controlled by means of the field bus.

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